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of view is interesting in its difference from the traditional self-estimate of New England. It is evident that in his opinion, at least, not all the sifting of grain took place in Massachusetts.

ST. GEORGE L. SIOUSSAT

A bibliography of municipal government in the United States. By William Bennett Munro, professor of municipal government, Harvard university. Second edition. [Publications of the bureau for research in municipal government.] (Cambridge: Harvard university press, London: Humphrey Milford, Oxford university press, 1915. 472 p. \$2.50 net)

The editor tells us that he has endeavored in this bibliography to present the variety of material needed by the widening horizon of the student of municipal affairs. The bibliography includes only recent publications. Preference is given to official data and to those books, pamphlets, etc., which are readily accessible. Space is allotted with reference to the importance and present-day interest of the topics. The bibliography aims to be comprehensive but not exhaustive.

The references are listed under the following sub-heads: general works of reference, political machinery and direct legislation, municipal organization, city planning and public improvements, public utilities, sanitation and public health, public safety, education and general betterment and municipal finance.

The sub-topics under the general heads are those of interest to any municipal student. Thus they include municipal statistics, civil service, excess condemnation, parks, bridges, art, franchises, hospitals, municipal cemeteries, smoke abatement, the social evil, municipal baths, social surveys, billboard regulation, budget-making, municipal debts, etc. The material under each sub-head is arranged alphabetically by authors. Dates, pages, editions, and publishers, are given. For important publications there is also a critical estimate of contents. Exceptionally good judgment has been used in the selection, arrangement, and source of topics. It is a handbook of inestimable value to students of municipal affairs.

CLYDE LYNDON KING

The spirit of the American revolution as revealed in the poetry of the period. A study of American patriotic verse, 1760-1783. By Samuel White Patterson, A.M., Ph.D., DeWitt Clinton high school and Columbia university, lecturer, Board of education, New York City. (Boston: Richard G. Badger, Toronto: Copp Clark company, limited, 1915. 235 p. \$1.50 net)

The somewhat expansive title and sub-title of Mr. Patterson's book give one a fair idea of what the work undertakes to offer; three sentences

from the preface illustrate the author's aversion to commas, and make his purpose and plan more clear: "The present study seeks to show forth the spirit that moved men during the struggle for American independence as that spirit is revealed in the verse of the period from 1760 when George III acceded to the throne of England to 1783 when peace ensued. It has been thought wise to quote rather liberally not only from the best work that was produced but from work of little or no literary merit and worthy of consideration and remembrance on no other account than the purpose in hand. . . . The present work seeks to subordinate the purely literary merit of a piece of verse to its merit in exposition of the events, characters and discussions of the revolutionary era" (pp. 3, 4).

It is hard to see how the student of history can find anything of value in the present work. In the columns of old newspapers Mr. Patterson has discovered a few poems which he seems to be the first to reprint, but he has not added anything to our knowledge of the development of loyalist and patriot sentiment. His most interesting chapter, the tenth, is largely devoted to Freneau, and the account of Freneau's drama on *André* is worth reading. But here as throughout the book the student of history will be disappointed, for there seems to be nothing new that is in any way significant. (*André* appears always as *Andre*, by the way; surely the unfortunate major might have been spared this humiliation.)

In fact, the book should not have pretended to be anything but a literary history of the revolutionary war. Unfortunately, however, there was no need for such a history, inasmuch as Mr. Patterson himself concedes that "Professor Tyler's monumental work on the period treated stands alone in its class" (p. 4). Had the author been content to print without comment the many poems from which he has given excerpts, his work might have justified itself. But his fondness for discussion has necessitated extensive cutting, and so the book loses the value that might have attached to an anthology of revolutionary poetry. It can be of no value to the historian, and the student of "mere literature" will surely turn elsewhere for his information.

Moreover, the book is so poorly written that it could not be recommended to even the elementary student of literature or history. What can one say of a work which abounds in sentences like these: "Such in brief was the state of American colonial literature prior to the struggle for political freedom — all of it, we may say, imitative to a large extent and uninspiring to any modern reader save the student of literary origins, distinctive in its independence of that true tone which we associate with the inspiration of the great and looking abroad to the home-land and the traditions thereof for its spiritual source as the men and women themselves who created it did, in their outlook upon life" (p. 21). "Theirs were still models sanctioned by tradition on both sides of the

Atlantic, replete with heroic couplets and biblical and classical allusion. Their experiences were too real and objective to encourage imaginative flights either in prose or verse for the period was essentially prosaic, matter-of-fact, materialistic; and yet, one may say, it was an age, too, strangely blending the idealistic with the practical" (p. 22).

The book is one which should perhaps be reviewed once, and then forgotten; and it is much more certain that it should be forgotten than that it ever deserved reviewing.

FRANKLYN B. SNYDER

Story of young Abraham Lincoln. By Wayne Whipple. (Philadelphia: Henry Altemus company, 1915. 226 p. \$.75)

This is a book for young people in keeping with other entertaining biographies of prominent Americans by the same author. It will not interest the student of American history. In a lively narrative style, the author strings together entertaining stories of Lincoln's boyhood and manhood, with no disturbing regard for what can be historically verified and what is probably apocryphal. There are no references but the anecdotes are gathered from narratives by members of the Hanks family, by Herndon, Stoddart, Hay and others.

An interesting feature of the narrative is the finality with which the author accepts some of these stories as "finally clearing up" points on which doubt has long been expressed by expert writers and students of Lincoln's life. In this way, the mooted question of what portion of the Gettysburg address was written before the dedication day is "unconsciously" settled. Likewise an anecdote explains "a question which has puzzled several biographers"—why Lincoln was deprived of his sword in the Black Hawk campaign.

The tales are woven together in a chronological order and will undoubtedly appeal to many young readers upon whom an authentic history would pall. The colored illustrations add to the attractiveness of the volume.

EDWIN E. SPARKS

The Indian Stream republic and Luther Parker. By Grant Showerman, Ph.D., professor, University of Wisconsin. [Collections of the New Hampshire historical society, edited by Otis Grant Hammond, M.A., superintendent of the society, vol. 11.] (Concord, N. H.: New Hampshire historical society, 1915. 272 p. \$3.00)

This is a miscellaneous compilation. It contains *inter alia* a documentary history of the Indian Stream republic under its constitution of July 9, 1832, a journal kept by a young woman in Wisconsin territory from 1852 to 1857, and a genealogical and biographical sketch of Luther Park-